

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210207-myanmar-coup.html>

The Tatmadaw, the military junta that overthrew Myanmar's government on February the 1st, has blocked access to Facebook. The Ministry of Communications issued a statement saying Facebook would be halted in order to maintain "stability". The social media giant is used by a majority of the population and the Tatmadaw sees it as a threat to its rule. In the days after the coup, a civil disobedience page that emerged on Facebook attracted over 200,000 followers. Human Rights Watch Asia said: "The Tatmadaw sees Facebook as its Internet nemesis because it's the dominant communication channel in the country and has been hostile to the military." A Twitter user said it was, "a ban on the Internet".

The Tatmadaw seized power from Myanmar's democratically elected civilian government. It immediately declared a yearlong state of emergency. The coup took place after days of tension between the military and the government. The Tatmadaw refused to accept the results of November's national election, alleging massive voter fraud. It has arrested former Minister of Foreign Affairs Aung San Suu Kyi, who is now being held in detention at an undisclosed location. Authorities filed charges against her for allegedly illegally importing six unregistered walkie-talkie radios. The military also arrested former president Win Myint. He is being charged with violating coronavirus containment measures during the election.

Sources: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-politics-facebook-focus/facebook-faces-a-reckoning-in-myanmar-after-blocked-by-military-idUSKBN2A42RY>  
<https://techcrunch.com/2021/02/03/myanmar-orders-telecom-networks-to-temporarily-block-facebook/>  
<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/myanmar-military-blocks-access-facebook-resistance-coup-grows>

# WARM-UPS

**1. MYANMAR'S COUP:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Myanmar's coup. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

military / junta / communications / statement / stability / social media / ban / Internet power / government / emergency / election / fraud / location / walkie-talkies / radios

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. U.N.:** Students A **strongly** believe the United Nations should reinstate the democratically-elected government in Myanmar; Students B **strongly** believe it shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE:** What are the pros and cons of these forms of civil disobedience? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
Facebook campaigns		
Street protests		
Online petitions		
Marches		
Boycotts		
Labor strikes		

**5. MILITARY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "military". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. SOCIAL STABILITY:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important for social stability at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Free Internet
- Wealth
- Equal opportunities
- Family
- Democracy
- Religion
- Strong courts
- Strong military

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. junta        | a. Unfriendly.   |
| 2. overthrew    | b. Brought to a sudden stop.   |
| 3. halted       | c. Failure or refusal to obey rules or someone in authority.                       |
| 4. threat       | d. A military or political group that rules a country after taking power by force. |
| 5. disobedience | e. A long-standing rival; an enemy.  |
| 6. nemesis      | f. Removed forcibly from power.  |
| 7. hostile      | g. A person or thing likely to cause damage or danger.                             |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. civilian     | h. Wrongful or criminal acts intended to result in financial or personal gain.   |
| 9. declared     | i. The action of detaining someone or the state of being detained in official custody, especially as a political prisoner. |
| 10. alleging    | j. The action of keeping something harmful under control or within limits.   |
| 11. fraud       | k. Openly or formally announced.   |
| 12. detention   | l. Breaking or failing to comply with a rule or formal agreement.  |
| 13. violating   | m. Claiming or asserting that someone has done something illegal or wrong, usually without proof that this is true.        |
| 14. containment | n. Of or relating to a person not belonging to the armed services or police.   |



# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210207-myanmar-coup.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A coup took place in Myanmar at the end of January. **T / F**
- b. The Ministry of Communications wants to maintain stability. **T / F**
- c. Less than half of people in Myanmar use Facebook. **T / F**
- d. A human rights group said Facebook was a nemesis to Myanmar's junta. **T / F**
- e. The junta has instilled a month-long state of emergency. **T / F**
- f. The junta refused to accept the results of a national election. **T / F**
- g. Aung San Suu Kyi is being held at the Junta's headquarters. **T / F**
- h. The former president is accused of violating coronavirus measures. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>overthrew</b>  | a. non-military |
| 2. <b>halted</b>     | b. appeared     |
| 3. <b>threat</b>     | c. breaching    |
| 4. <b>emerged</b>    | d. stopped      |
| 5. <b>hostile</b>    | e. chicanery    |
| 6. <b>civilian</b>   | f. unfriendly   |
| 7. <b>tension</b>    | g. reportedly   |
| 8. <b>fraud</b>      | h. toppled      |
| 9. <b>allegedly</b>  | i. friction     |
| 10. <b>violating</b> | j. danger       |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the military junta that overthrew  | a. civilian government     |
| 2. halted in order to                 | b. of the population       |
| 3. used by a majority                 | c. the results             |
| 4. civil                              | d. channel                 |
| 5. it's the dominant communication    | e. measures                |
| 6. Myanmar's democratically elected   | f. Myanmar's government    |
| 7. The coup took place after days     | g. an undisclosed location |
| 8. refused to accept                  | h. maintain "stability"    |
| 9. held in detention at               | i. of tension              |
| 10. violating coronavirus containment | j. disobedience            |

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210207-myanmar-coup.html>

1. When did the junta overthrow Myanmar's government?
2. What did the junta say it wanted to maintain?
3. What does the junta see Facebook as a threat to?
4. How many followers does a civil disobedience page have on Facebook?
5. What did a human rights group say the junta views Facebook as?
6. How long is the state of emergency the junta declared?
7. What was there between the junta and government before the coup?
8. What did the junta say happened in November's election?
9. What is Aung San Suu Kyi accused of illegally importing?
10. Who is being charged with violating coronavirus measures?

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210207-myanmar-coup.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'military' and 'coup'.

military	coup

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• junta</li><li>• issued</li><li>• giant</li><li>• days</li><li>• page</li><li>• hostile</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• immediately</li><li>• took</li><li>• accept</li><li>• location</li><li>• filed</li><li>• violating</li></ul>
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# MYANMAR'S COUP DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'military'?
3. What do you know about Myanmar?
4. What do you know about military coups?
5. How stable is the government in your country?
6. Why might Facebook be a threat?
7. What do you think of civil disobedience?
8. Would you take part in civil disobedience?
9. Why do you think the military think they can govern a country?
10. Can the Internet be banned?

*Myanmar military blocks Facebook after coup - 7th February, 2021*  
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# MYANMAR'S COUP DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'coup'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you want to know about Myanmar?
15. What happens in a state of emergency?
16. How would you feel if there was a coup in your country?
17. What do you know about Aung San Suu Kyi?
18. What advice do you have for Aung San Suu Kyi?
19. Where do you think this story will be in two months from now?
20. What questions would you like to ask the military government?